

A N N U A L N A R R A T I V E R E P O R T

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By

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Agricultural Extension Service

COCONINO COUNTY

ARIZONA

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PREFACE

The following narrative report is an account of the agent's activities during the past five months, 34 1/2 days of which were spent in Coconino County.

The agent wishes to take this opportunity to thank all national, state, and county extension workers for their valuable aid and assistance.

ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING

ADULT

The problem of organizing the rural homemakers in Coconino County for the extension home demonstration program was attacked from a different angle than was true in Yavapai County. In Coconino County the agent with the county agent and the state leader held a county program planning meeting. At this meeting there were two homemakers from each rural area within a radius of fifty miles of the county seat. The areas represented were Sedona, Flagstaff, Parks, Donne Parks and Black Bill Park. At this planning meeting we were especially fortunate to have the U.S.D.A. Extension Specialist in Parent Education and Family Life Education with us. She set the theme of the meeting that "What we can't do alone, we can do with the aid of our neighbors."

At the program planning meeting, one half day was devoted to brief talks by the Home Demonstration State leader, U.S.D.A. specialist in Parent Education and Family Life Education, State Clothing Specialist, County Public Health Nurse, County Agent and County Home Demonstration Agent on what the County Home Demonstration program had to offer to the rural homemaker. The afternoon was spent in discussion by the homemakers of what their particular problems were and what particular subjects they would like included in the County Home Demonstration program.

The following month, the agent held a follow-up meeting with the community representatives and calendared the subjects which the homemakers desired to have included in their county program.

There were no homemakers' clubs organized in the county at the time that the agent was assigned. In September, the Sedona homemakers organized with seventeen members. The agent is also working with the Child Betterment Association of Parks (twenty-five members); the Auxiliary of Grand Canyon (fifteen members) and the L. D. S.

ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING

ADULT:(Cont'd)

of Flagstaff (fifteen members). Repeated attempts have been made to organize a homemakers' club in Donne Parks to include Black Bill Park, but the necessary cooperation of the homemaker has been lacking. Effort in this will be continued in 1948. The agent also plans in 1948 to hold some requested demonstrations in Fredonia and in Tuba City.

4-H CLUB WORK

When the agent reported to the county there was one community girls' 4-H club with eighteen members enrolled. Some time and effort were spent by the agent in attempts to organize 4-H clubs in the other communities. However, only partial success was achieved in that several of the communities are planning to sponsor the 4-H clubs in 1948.

FOOD PRESERVATION

ADULT

Four pressure canner clinics were run in Coconino County by the agent. A total of seventeen pressure canner lids were tested. The agent recommended that three new "pop offs" be purchased by the homemakers. A total of two hundred bulletins on canning and care of the pressure canner were distributed at these clinics. The women were also taught about proper protection and safety of their entire canner and self through safe cleaning methods of the "pop offs" and gauges. Altitude and gauge corrections were made and attached to the canner lids.

The agent also took this opportunity to meet the women of the various communities and find out the proper people to contact for various club works.

The agent received numerous complaints about the quality of the self sealing lids which were being purchased by the homemakers. It was found that some of the war time lids were still being distributed by the local stores. Both housewives and distributors were advised of the proper method of testing the lids before purchasing or using them. One homemaker in Oak Creek canyon had 100% spoilage on her home canned peaches due to these defective lids.

The preservation of food through canning and drying was greatly decreased this year due to the shortage of home grown foods because of the drouth and to the cessation of canned foods rationing. The common expression encountered by the agent from the homemaker was "I'm just so tired of canning that I'm not going to can a thing this year; we will buy what we need this year." It is believed by the agent that 1948 will show an increase in the canning activities throughout the entire county.

FOOD PRESERVATION

4-H

There were three 4-H girls enrolled in the first year canning project but only one actually completed the work because of the shortage of raw foods appropriate for canning. Difficulties were also encountered by two of the 4-H girls in that their fruit spoiled because of defective lids. This experience led the girls to give a demonstration on the selection of lids for safe canning and the causes of food spoilage.

4-H CLUB WORK

MEAL PLANNING

There were four 4-H girls enrolled in the meal planning projects this year, three in the third year, and one in the first year.

CLOTHING

The clothing portion of the girls' 4-H club had four first year, two second year, three third year, and one fifth year projects carried and completed. The blue ribbon articles of the girls were entered in the State Fair. The agent conducted a leader training meeting for the Sedona girls' 4-H leader and assistant leader, and also visited the club when it was possible for her to do so.

HOME BEAUTIFICATION

One 4-H girl carried and completed the home beautification project. Appropriate pictures and records were displayed at the achievement day.

ACHIEVEMENT DAY

An achievement day was held for these girls in combination with the boys of the same community. The girls exhibited their completed projects with satisfactory records as did the boys.

'Girls' 4-H certificates and pins awarded were:

- 4 - 1st year clothing
- 2 - 2nd year clothing
- 3 - 3rd year clothing
- 1 - 5th year clothing
- 1 - 1st year meal planning
- 3 - 3rd year meal planning
- 1 - 1st year canning
- 1 - 1st year home beautification

4-H CLUB WORK

ACHIEVEMENT DAY:(cont'd)

Especially recognition should be given the local leader of this 4-H club for her exceptional work in directing the numerous activities of these girls in such a variety of subjects.

FURNITURE REPAIR AND SLIP COVERING

ADULT

By common request of the homemaker the agent chose as her introductory demonstration material a study of the inner repair of furniture and slip covering. As in Yavapai County the agent divided the project into two demonstrations (1) inner repair of furniture and (2) actual measuring, marking, cutting and making of the slip covers. Four first meetings and three second meetings were conducted in the county by the agent.

The women showed great enthusiasm at the demonstrations. Five straight chairs, four rockers and four foot stools were repaired, padded and slip covered by the ladies. The foot stools were made of inch boards with old car springs attached, tied, padded, put in the muslin and then slip covered. Door stops and/or metal slides were used as feet or legs on these stools. The construction of these stools was suggested by the agent as a simple and practical method for the women to learn as many of the principles of furniture repair and slip covering as possible in a short time.

CHRISTMAS AND TOY SUGGESTIONS

By popular demand, the agent prepared a demonstration on Christmas presents and toys which the homemaker could make in her spare time for gifts. This demonstration was given in full to two clubs with a total attendance of twenty homemakers. However, the stuffed toys met with such an enthusiastic reception that they were shown with accompanying patterns and instructions to two other club meetings and to about one hundred and twenty children and two rural schools. Ten patterns and traced by the women for use into their communities, and twenty-five instruction sheets were given out. Ten University bulletins on toys and toy suggestions were given out.

SUMMARY

One homemakers' club was organized with seventeen members. Arrangements were made for monthly meetings sponsored by other related organizations in Grand Canyon, Flagstaff and Parks. Plans are also being made for four or five meetings to Tuba City and Fredonia in 1948.

The demonstrations in furniture repair and slip covering have been enthusiastically received and some excellent work is being done by the women.

The Sedona 4-H club is actively participating in all phases of girls club work and are doing excellent work.

Very little canning has been done in 1947 by the homemakers; however, there is every reason for the agent to believe that 1948 will see a change for increased home canning.

As the homemaker becomes more and more conscious of the presence of the part time home demonstration agent in the county, the agent feels sure that there will be more and more calls upon her time while in the county.